

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Report

on the

Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the District

for the year ended

31st December, 1964

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Medical Officer of Health

L. RICH, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

9 Park Street, Congleton (Congleton 3655/6)

Chief Public Health Inspector

P. KIRKHAM, M.A.P.H.I.

Engineer and Surveyor

R. O. BIRTWISTLE, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.I.C.S.



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To the Chairman and Members
of the Congleton Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1964.

Once more there has been an increase in the estimated population of 140 with an increase in the number of births of 20 and a similar fall in the number of deaths.

There have been important Staff Changes both in the Health Departments and in the Engineer and Surveyors. This increase in Staff indicates not only our growing population but the considerable development in every direction which is well brought out in the various sections of this report. The continued support which the Council gives to the Officers is reflected in the service being given to the members of the public.

There was a considerable epidemic of Measles during the year and as has been mentioned in previous reports we are awaiting a general distribution of the Measles Vaccine. This has had an extensive field trial and is now well proven. It will eliminate the last of the major epidemic diseases in this country. Measles is an illness not to be taken lightly. It is a distressing condition with occasional serious complications. It causes great dislocation in the schools and is a very great expense to the National Health Service.

There were also some cases of Food Poisoning and Dysentery notified. It is certain that there are many more cases occurring than we actually hear about. Every case is followed up in an endeavour to discover the source of infection. In this respect we are ably assisted by the Public Health Laboratories both in Chester and in Manchester.

Despite representations by the Council to the Rural District Councils Association and from that body to the Ministry no progress has been made towards the introduction of a Slaughter Policy and the establishment of Brucella-free herds. It would appear to me that there is a fatal weakness at the highest level of administration that the Ministry of Agriculture should be allowed to purvey a diseased product and that the Ministry of Health either will not or cannot intervene. This lack of liaison between the two Ministries was well illustrated in the enquiry into the Aberdeen Typhoid epidemic. One would think that at the slightest suggestion of a diseased product or potentially diseased product being offered to the public the Ministry of Health would intervene. But it would appear that the fear of economic loss has been allowed to overrule proper health safeguards.

Reference was made last year to the fairly extensive cover given in our Rural District by the Meals on Wheels service. It is extremely

satisfactory therefore to be able to report once again a further extension this time in the Smallwood and Arclid areas. Largely through the good work of Councillor Mrs. Nield and under the auspices of the W.V.S. a scheme has been established not without difficulties in this scattered rural area. We are grateful to Arclid Hospital where the meals are obtained.

The cost of the meal has now been standardised throughout the county at 1/- for each recipient. The local Council and the County sharing the difference. It is interesting to note that last year approximately 44,000 meals were served in Cheshire, of these 7,000 were given in South East Cheshire.

Over the years the Council has pursued a steady policy of introducing main drainage to the various areas where population is concentrated. Of necessity a scheme of priorities has had to be drawn up and the bigger problems tackled first. However, certain developments have taken place outside the control of the Rural District and emergency situations have arisen. I am referring to the very considerable amount of building that has taken place in the West Heath area of the Borough of Congleton adjacent to Astbury and Blackfirs.

It is now a vital urgency to serve both Astbury and Blackfirs as the sewerage from both these areas is a serious menace to the inhabitants of that part of the Borough and also to the new school.

The Council are well aware of the problem and have met members of the Borough Council and have agreed jointly to make urgent representation to the Ministry for permission to put works in hand.

During the year under review, Mr. W. H. Cross was approaching his retirement after many years of great service as Clerk to the Council. Many tributes have been paid to his work by people better qualified than myself. I have been associated with many Clerks during my career as a Medical Officer of Health and I rank Mr. W. H. Cross amongst the best. I owe him a debt of gratitude for the assistance he has always given me.

I want to thank too both Mr. Kirkham and Mr. Birtwistle for their assistance with this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health

Throughout this report, the figures in brackets are for the year 1963 and are for purposes of comparison

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population 15,170 (15,030)

Births

Live Births—

		<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	229	(209)	124	(111)	105	(98)
Illegitimate	7	(7)	3	(3)	4	(4)

Still Births—

Legitimate	3	(7)	2	(3)	1	(4)
Illegitimate	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid-1964 15.8 (14.6)

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population 18.4 (18.2)

Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 12.5 (31.3)

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total (live and still) births 16.3 (17.3)

Still birth rate per 1000 total population 46 (.26)

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total population 19 (.31)

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	5	(2)	4	(1)	1
Illegitimate	—	(—)	—	(—)	—

Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births ... 21.1 (9.2)

Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales 20.0 (20.9)

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 21.8 (9.5)

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births 0 (0)

Deaths

	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>
Deaths (all ages) ...	229	(249)	114	(123)	115

Death rate per 1000 estimated average population 10.5 (10.9)

Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of population 11.3 (12.2)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year.

CAUSE	Total	Male	F'le
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other forms of	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	7	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	8	3	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	1
Diabetes	1	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	23	9	14
Coronary disease, angina	40	28	12
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
Other heart disease	14	4	10
Other circulatory disease	11	3	8
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	18	11	7
Bronchitis	5	4	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	79	31	48
Motor vehicle accidents	3	3	—
All other accidents	2	—	2
Suicide	1	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
TOTAL	229	114	115

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis	0	(0)
Other Maternal causes	0	(0)
Maternity mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	0	(0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Attention is drawn to the increase in work being done in our various Clinics. This is the outcome of development and serious consideration is now being given to the establishment of Clinics both in Holmes Chapel and Scholar Green.

Welfare Centre	New cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Goostrey	45 (22)	— (—)	— (—)	529 (371)	122 (118)	227 (222)	24 (23)	354 (256)	14.7 (11.1)
Holmes Chapel...	73 (48)	— (—)	— (—)	552 (352)	115 (91)	186 (181)	24 (24)	425 (240)	17.7 (10.0)
Mow Cop	14 (13)	— (—)	— (—)	138 (127)	25 (102)	67 (32)	24 (24)	99 (114)	4.1 (4.7)
Rode Heath ...	37 (17)	— (—)	— (—)	358 (221)	131 (92)	135 (154)	23 (25)	253 (162)	11.0 (6.4)
Scholar Green ...	36 (31)	— (—)	— (—)	442 (323)	155 (71)	89 (51)	24 (23)	228 (209)	9.5 (9.0)

The names of the Health Visitors covering the Rural District are as follows :

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Districts</i>
Street, G.	88 Macclesfield Road, Holmes Chapel Tel. Holmes Chapel 3095	Church Hulme, Cranage, Somerford Somerford Booths, Swettenham, Twemlow, Goostrey
Richardson, B.	Clinic Centre, Sandbach Road South Alsager. Tel. Alsager 3215	Church Lawton, Odd Rode, Smallwood
Furness, H. M.	Clinic Centre, Sandbach Road South Alsager. Tel. Alsager 3215	Betchton, Hassall
Williams, N. R.	Ivy Cottage, Mill Lane, Snelson, Chelford. Tel. Chelford 489	Hulme Walfield,
Rae, E. O.	Ashfields Clinic, Platt Av., Sandbach Tel. Sandbach 970	Arclid, Brereton
Henderson, H. (Mrs.)	Ashfields Clinic, Platt Av., Sandbach Tel. Sandbach 970	Bradwall, Elton
Corbishley, M.	The Clinic, Nursery Lane, Congleton Tel. Congleton 2261	Moreton-cum- Alcumlow, Newbold Astbury
Gratrix, A.	85 Wheelock Street, Middlewich Tel. Middlewich 2165	Tetton

Home Nursing

The District Nurses serving our area act in double capacity as Home Nurses and Midwives. They are as follows :

V. SPENCER, Black and White Cottage, Astbury	Congleton 3451
M. W. YARNOLD, Booth Bed Lane, Goostrey	Holmes Chapel 3244
L. B. BLUNSUM, 19 West Way, Holmes Chapel	Holmes Chapel 2226
H. BARRY, 2 Drenfell Road, Scholar Green	Kidsgrove 2929
I. HOYLE, 9 Offley Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 852
M. WAINWRIGHT, 87 Platt Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 256
C. M. HIBBERT (Relief), Blencathra, Plant Lane, Elton	Sandbach 556

We are constantly enlarging the items of nursing equipment available for assisting in their own homes.

Air Rings	Crutches	Mackintosh Sheets
Back Rests	Enuresis Blankets	Page Turner
Bed Pans	Toilet Aid	Tripod Walking Stick
Bed Cradles	Fireguards	Urinals
Air Bed	Feeding Cups	Wheel Chairs
Commodes	Bed	Walking Aids
Carrying Chair	Lifts	Walking Stick

We are also finding that the Disposable Sheets are invaluable for dealing with cases of incontinence. It is also possible in suitable cases to provide a "Foul Washing" service.

Births 1963

Hospital		Home		Private Nursing Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
133	1	88	1	—	—
(152)	(9)	(47)	(—)	(—)	(—)

It is satisfactory to note that once again there has been no Maternal death.

Chiropody

The use of this service has grown enormously and the demand was so great that it has been found necessary to reduce the number of treatments after the first six monthly treatments to one treatment every two months. However, in exceptional cases where it is necessary to give the treatment more frequently, it is possible to do this under the scheme.

The scales for chiropody are as follows :

Free Treatments - Those in receipt of National Assistance Benefit or whose income does not exceed £5/6/0 per week in the case of single persons, or £8/0/6 per week in the case of married couples.

Half cost paid by Cheshire County Council - When income between £5/6/1 and £6/16/0 per week in the case of single persons. When income between £8/0/7 and £10 per week in the case of married couples.

This scale may be varied from time to time

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation

Pre-school children	...	...	...	—	(1)
School children	...	...	...	—	(—)
				—	(1)
Reinforcing injections	...	...		—	(1)

Tetanus Immunisation

Pre-school children	...	...	...	—	(—)
School children	...	...	...	1	(1)
Adults	...	...	...	2	(—)
				3	(1)
Reinforcing injections	...	...		—	(1)

Whooping Cough

Pre-school children	...	...	...	—	(—)
School children	...	...	...	—	(—)
				—	(—)
Reinforcing injections	...	...		—	(—)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)

Pre-school children	141	(78)
School children	4	(4)
	145	(82)
Reinforcing injections	15	(34)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough)

Pre-school children	—	(—)
School children	—	(1)
	—	(1)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Tetanus)

Pre-school children	—	(—)
School children	2	(—)
	2	(—)
Reinforcing injections	16	(8)

Primary Vaccination

Pre-school children	60	(16)
School children	—	(1)
Adults	8	(10)
	68	(27)
Re-Vaccination	2	(7)

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

It is not possible to separate the figures in respect of each County District and the table below shows the figures for the whole of South East Cheshire.

				ORAL VACCINE			Reinforc. dose
				1st dose	2nd dose	3rd dose	after salk vacc.
Children born in 1964	...	...	...	133	133	133	157
Children born in 1963	...	...	...	625	625	625	
Children born in 1962	...	...	...	100	100	100	
Children born in 1961	...	...	...	51	51	51	
Children and Young Persons born 1943-60				164	164	164	
Persons born 1933-42	...	...	...	46	46	46	157
Others	...	...	...	134	134	134	
TOTALS				1253	1253	1253	157

Public Health Laboratory Service

A new laboratory has opened at Chester which we find more convenient than going to Manchester.

Domestic Help Service

Home Helps employed during 1964

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Part time	...	...	...	...	...	52	(45)
						<u>52</u>	<u>(45)</u>

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1964

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Part time	...	...	...	...	...	28	(28)
						<u>28</u>	<u>(28)</u>

Applications received during 1964

Confinement	...	...	...	...	2	(2)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	3	(5)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	12	(9)
					<u>17</u>	<u>(16)</u>

Cases attended during 1964

Confinement	...	...	...	...	3	(1)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	9	(11)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	39	(32)
					51	(44)

Cases receiving attention at 31st December, 1964

Confinement	...	...	...	...	—	
Sickness	...	...	...	...	7	
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	22	
					29	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

I am indebted to Mr. Delwyn G. Davies, Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board for the following information.

This district is supplied partly from the Mow Cop Borehole, partly from the Delamere Boreholes via the Allostock Booster (now on standby supply), partly by a small bulk supply purchased from the Macclesfield and District Water Board, but mainly by River Dee water from the Hurleston Treatment Works supplied through a 12 inch main between Tetton and Holmes Chapel. A small amount of Hurleston water is also taken into the southern part of the district through Alsager where it may be mixed with a proportion of borehole water from Bearstone.

The Contract for the construction of the new 3 m.g. service reservoir at Smallwood was commenced in August 1964, and programmed to be completed in December 1966.

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. R. O. Birtwistle, for the reports on Sewerage and Housing.

SEWERAGE

Development in the Rural District

It would seem that with the motor car rapidly becoming universal, the one house - one car ratio will soon be reached. This, together with the construction of the M.6 Motorway through the district and the electrification of the Manchester/Crewe Railway have resulted in greater interest in the development of the Council's district. Whereas in the past plans were deposited for the individual house or at the most two or three, some plans are now for 20 to 100 dwellings, several Development Companies having bought land, notably in Holmes Chapel, Church Lawton and Goostrey.

The fairly rapid change in the character of development has already resulted in sewage treatment problems.

At Holmes Chapel the further growth of the village can be permitted only when the new works have been completed, while at Goostrey some development can still take place before enlargement of the works is necessary. At Church Lawton the new treatment works will deal with the projected development, but at Odd Rode the envisaged enlargement may need to be given higher priority than was envisaged last year.

Parish of Betchton - Lawton Heath End

A small grouped development commenced at Lawton Heath End prior to 1939 and in postwar discussions with the Local Planning Authority it was considered that this area of the Parish should be scheduled as one suitable for further development.

The land contained within the limited area came onto the market towards the end of the year and was bought by two Building Companies.

This unexpected growth will result in increased treatment capacity being provided at the small Sewage Treatment Works, unless an alternative can be devised.

Malkins Bank

Consideration was given to the improvements necessary at these works, which are very old, but are just coping with the sewage discharge with frequent attention. There has not been much development in this vicinity although it lies on the boundary of Sandbach.

Since the adjoining part of the Urban District is served by sewers draining to a pumping station sited almost on the boundary, it was decided to explore the possibility of connecting the Parish Sewers to this station.

Parish of Church Hulme - Holmes Chapel Village

The Contract for the laying of sewers in the village was completed on 22nd April, 1964 in 9 months, some 3 months less than the period allowed.

The sludge drying beds were also completed within the Contract period.

Further progress was made by the Council's Consultants with the design of the new Sewage Treatment Works, but there was again some difficulty in finalising the requirements of the three factories as to volumes and strength of the trade wastes to be discharged.

Parish of Church Lawton - Red Bull

Work on the Sewers and Pumping Station was completed during the year, some considerable time after the prescribed completion date. The difficulties experienced by the Contractor, and mentioned in last year's report, continued for the remainder of the Contract.

Towards the end of the year the Pumping Station was "commissioned" and properties were connected to the Sewers.

Parish of Newbold Astbury

Meetings were held with the Borough of Congleton when it was agreed that the sewage from this village should be discharged to the Borough Sewers.

As soon as circumstances permit, this scheme will be prepared.

Parish of Odd Rode - Treatment Works

Notwithstanding the degree of overloading at these Treatment Works, a satisfactory effluent is generally produced. This is no doubt due to the weak character of the sewage resulting from the considerable volume of surface water finding access to the sewers.

Rode Heath

Approval of the Council's proposals for the new Treatment Works to serve both Rode Heath and Lawton Gate and of the Sewerage arrangements for Rode Heath and Thurlwood were approved by the Ministry.

Parish of Smallwood

There were several discussions with River Board Representatives regarding the drainage problems in Smallwood, but with no conclusive decision being reached.

Parish of Somerford - Blackfirs

Some progress was made with the preparation of a scheme for the drainage of the Blackfirs area of the parish. It was the original intention to drain the existing properties to the Camp sewage installation, but on a further review, it was decided to discharge the sewage to the sewers of the Congleton Borough Council, these having been laid almost to the mutual boundary by a Development Company building in the Borough.

Pumping will be necessary for part of the area.

The Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961

The requirements of the Cheshire River Board were not indicated during the year under review.

HOUSING

The Council's ownership of dwelling houses, shops and garages at 31st December, 1964 was :

Dwelling Houses and Flats	1094
Shops	5
Garages	155

Twelve bungalows were built and occupied during the year and twenty-three garages were completed.

The Council's complement of dwellings includes all types of accommodation from four bedroom houses to single bedroom bungalows, and flatlets with Warden supervision and the only need appears to be for further bungalows for the elderly.

There is still land in hand and the purchase of additional sites is being negotiated or contemplated.

Land - In Hand

There have been no developments during the year regarding the land owned by the Council at Goostrey (Sandy Lane), Rode Heath (Mill Mead), and Mount Pleasant.

Two draft layout plans were prepared for the Goostrey site but the ideal solution has yet to be found for dealing with Sandy Lane itself which is merely a "cinder track". The difficulty arises from the fact that private dwellings have frontage to part of the lane and the owners are not anxious to be involved in road-making charges.

Land - To be purchased

The Council explored the possibility of buying land at Mount Pleasant for development and sale to private individuals. The Mineral Valuer was rather guarded in his report and in consequence the proposal was abandoned.

Land - For Shops

With a view to assisting the County Council in their road improvement scheme and in order to continue to supply a local need for shops the Council negotiated the purchase of land in Scholar Green.

It is proposed to build two shops with flats above and it is understood that the County Council may be interested in a site for a Clinic.

Land - Danestile Farm

This smallholding was bought by the Council. It adjoins their previous holding, which has now been developed by the construction of roads which are named Brookfield Drive, Hill Crest Avenue and Oakfield Rise.

Land - Lawton Gate

The land bought by the Council was serviced by the construction of roads and sewers, and a scheme for the erection of fifteen bungalows was prepared.

Bungalows - Mount Pleasant

The remaining twelve bungalows of the contract commenced in 1963 in Clare Street, were completed during the year.

Garages

Additional garages were built bringing the Council's total to 155.

The Council's policy regarding the type of garage has changed. It is now the intention to build prefabricated concrete garages in future, rather than brick, except in special circumstances.

With a view to improving their Garage Sites the Council allocated a sum of money for the purpose of laying tarmacadam to the entrances.

This work was carried out, and it is hoped to improve their service still further by paving the whole of the turning areas according to a programme.

Private Development Sites

Considerable interest has been aroused in the Council's scheme for the development of land and its sale to private developers enabling them to engage their own Architect and Builder, thus providing a dwelling to suit their own desires. The scheme has worked reasonably well from an administrative point of view.

The farmhouse, "Danestile," Holmes Chapel is old and in need of extensive repair. It is therefore proposed to demolish the building and to use the site for eighteen Council bungalows for elderly persons, a Cheshire County Council Hostel for sixteen persons and the balance will probably be sold for private building.

Private Development Building

Building Plans - Private Development

			<i>Byelaws only</i>	<i>Byelaws & Planning</i>	<i>Planning only</i>	<i>Outline Planning</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	...	...	8	18	10	8	44
February	...	...	13	26	6	13	58
March	...	...	8	26	5	14	53
April	...	...	30	14	6	16	66
May	...	...	10	11	5	5	31
June	...	...	8	18	9	9	44
July	...	...	12	17	7	8	44
August	...	...	7	17	5	5	34
September	...	...	14	18	7	9	48
October	...	...	13	21	6	10	50
November	...	...	14	19	8	6	47
December	...	...	11	15	4	3	33
TOTALS			148	220	78	106	552

The table, when compared with those for previous years, illustrates the increase in private development. Total submissions during recent years have been :

1959	-	414	1962	-	426
1960	-	475	1963	-	490
1961	-	489	1964	-	552

Purchase of Property

The Council have bought No. 56 Cinderhill, Scholar Green for reconditioning and they are negotiating for No. 39 Malkins Bank. In the latter case, the house is one of a terrace all of which need to be improved. It is thought that with the Council's interest in one of the houses, an example could well be set to other adjoining owners who might proceed to improve their own houses.

Airey Houses

Two Airey type houses in Cinderhill Lane, Scholar Green were affected by fire in September, one so badly that it has had to be demolished, and the second had the roof destroyed. Negotiations are taking place with the Fire Assessors for their replacement.

Maintenance of Housing Estates

Consideration was given towards the end of the year to a report presented on the reorganisation of the Housing Maintenance Department, but since the various activities of the Council have been closely inter-related, reference was also made to the sewerage and grass-cutting services. Decisions were taken which when implemented will increase the staff in the Maintenance Section from 12 to 14, additional vehicles will be bought which will make each trade independent and changes in administration should result in earlier attention being given to tenants' report.

A special vehicle and low-loading trailer are to be bought for the Housing Site Maintenance Section and the man who served in a dual capacity, maintaining the office grounds, the grass verges and open spaces on housing sites, will in future concentrate on the latter. A gardener will replace him at the offices.

Bus Shelters

The first jointly financed bus shelters were erected during the year, one opposite the New Inn on Newcastle Road in the Parish of Betchton by the Council's staff and one at Brereton Green on the old road, by the Parish Council who engaged a Contractor.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Tuberculosis

Four cases were notified and the number of people on register at 31st December, 1964 is shown below :

			Up to									65 &	Total
			1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	over		
Male	Pulmonary	... ..	—	—	1	2	3	2	5	3	2	18	
Female	Pulmonary	... ..	—	—	1	3	5	3	6	1	—	19	
Male	Non-Pulmonary	... ..	—	—	1	2	4	1	—	2	1	11	
Female	Non-Pulmonary	... ..	—	—	1	5	3	2	2	3	—	16	

For comparative purposes, I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1964 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1955.

Notifications — 1955 to 1964

	1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5		1																		
5-15		1	1																	
15-25					1														1	
25-35					1								1							
35-45																				
45-55			1		2														1	
55-65			1		1					1										
65 and over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15						1							1						1	
15-25	2		2								1				1					
25-35	1	1																	1	
35-45					1								1							
45-55									1				1							
55-65	1																			
65 and over																	1			
TOTALS	4	3	4	1	6	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

Deaths — 1955 to 1964

	1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35																				
35-45																				
45-55					1				2		1									
55-65			1																	
65 and over				1																
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35	1																			
35-45	1																			
45-55																				
55-65																				
65 and over									1											
TOTALS	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notifiable Diseases

(other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1964

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION													Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over			
Dysentery	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	1	9	—	
Meales	3	10	30	28	27	130	13	2	—	—	—	—	243	—	
Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	5	11	1	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	
Whooping Cough .	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	2	2	1	—	—	10	—	
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	5	—	

The following sections of this report cover the work of the Public Health Inspector's Department and have been compiled by Mr. P. Kirkham, the Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Staff

There has been on change in the establishment of five driver/loaders and nine loaders. Four employees left during the year and were able to be replaced satisfactorily.

The Foreman had his house connected to a telephone in order to give facilities for communication in the event of emergencies such as tip fires.

Refuse Collection

The following tables show an increase of a further 226 units collected during the year. Since the bonus scheme was first introduced in 1961 a total of 605 additional bins are now collected,

accounted for principally by new properties. An increasing number of farms request a service and are usually provided with a monthly clearance of "tins, jars and bottles". Otherwise a weekly collection is maintained throughout the area and only two complaints were recorded of non-collection.

(1) Driver and two loaders

District	2 Loaders Target	Units Collected 1/1/64	Bonus 1/1/64	Units Collected 31/12/64	Bonus 31/12/64
1	998	1071	73	1123	125
2	1042	1185	143	1234	192
3	950	1007	57	1030	80
4	998	1111	113	1213	215
TOTALS	3988	4374	386	4600	612

(2) Driver and one loader

District	2 Loaders Target	Units Collected 1/1/64	Bonus 1/1/64	Units Collected 31/12/64	Bonus 31/12/64
1	650	1071	421	1123	473
2	689	1185	496	1234	545
3	625	1007	382	1030	405
4	650	1111	461	1213	563
TOTALS	2614	4374	1760	4600	1986

Refuse Disposal

Disposal is by tipping, controlled by the use of a tractor and mechanical shovel. The main tip is at Arclid Depot. Additional tips were commenced during the year at Church Lawton, Lawton Heath End, Smallwood, Rode Park (now complete) and Cranage. It is intended to concentrate tipping at three points - in the north at Cranage where farm pits have been made available, at Arclid in the central area, and in the south at Lawton Heath End at the site of a sewage works.

The problem of disposal of used car bodies has not been resolved in this area. I am serving on a Working Party convened by the Cheshire County Council at the instigation of the Rural District's Association to formulate a policy to be recommended to local authorities in the County. Whereas the number of abandoned cars is not great in this area, the present failure to provide any system of removal or disposal must result in grave disfigurement of the countryside unless speedily resolved. It is thought local authorities generally are appreciative of the position, and some success will be achieved.

The Council have agreed to allow tipping facilities at a charge of 5/- to 15/-, according to the load tipped. Refuse and material left by outgoing tenants is removed free and only a nominal charge is made for removal of "surplus household requisites" such as mattresses, old bikes, etc. One large dumping ground on the boundary with an adjoining local authority was effectively cleared by the County Council by bulldozing the surrounding ground into the depression.

Vehicles and Maintenance

The following details are given of mileage and fuel used during the year. The figures for 1963 are given in parentheses :

Number	Make	Duty	Mileage	Galls	
				Fuel	m.p.g.
PMB 601	Karrier Gamecock (spare vehicle)	Refuse Collector	1706	290	5.8
PMB 602	Karrier Gamecock	Refuse Collector	6832	1375	4.9
PMB 603	Karrier Gamecock	Refuse Collector	6482	1080	6.0
WMA363	Karrier Gamecock	Refuse Collector	8079	1423	5.6
743 NFM	Karrier Gamecock	Refuse Collector	6414	1201	5.3
367 LG	Bedford/Eagle Cesspool Emptyer	Septic tanks and Nightsoil	10466	1120*	9.3
			39990	6489	6.1
			(39261)	(6577)	(5.9)
894 STU	Fordson Tractor	Refuse Tips, Sewage Works, etc.	99 gallons Diesel Oil used during 1964		

* Diesel

Three of the vehicles used are over twelve years old. All refuse collectors are of the side-loading type and give good service. Nevertheless, the Council have agreed on the next occasion a vehicle is renewed to have the rear-loading compression type of vehicle. Such a vehicle is thought to be brought into use in 1966. It is hoped that by use of this vehicle, the existing staff will be able to cope with the increased number of properties being occupied in the Council's area. In addition, of course, the Council are appreciative of the more hygienic method of collection by employing this type of vehicle.

A pressure greaser operated from a compressor was purchased during the year. The tarmacadam drive and the service area at the rear of the Depot were repaired. A visit made on the 24th October, 1963 by a cleansing inspector appointed by the Government was found most useful.

Nightsoil and Septic Tank Service

A weekly collection of nightsoil has been maintained and the following table indicates the work carried out by the Cesspool Emptier on septic tank desludging. The figures for 1963 are shown in parentheses.

<i>Type of Tank</i>	<i>No. of Loads</i>	<i>No. of Hours</i>	<i>No. of Visits</i>	<i>No. of diff. tanks</i>
Domestic	272½(238)	357½(289½)	257 (208)	203 (147)
Non-Domestic	460½(504)	389½(390)	129 (123)	75 (62)
Council Houses	79 (121)	119 (157½)	67 (79)	37 (37)
Council Sewage Works	62 (64)	72½ (51)	37 (33)	14 (10)
Outside Area	20 (16)	29½ (22½)	15 (15)	12 (14)
TOTALS	894 (943)	968 (910½)	505 (458)	341 (270)

Salvage

Waste paper and cardboard continue to be salvaged but only one special collection is made of container waste and this is in the

northern area. The end of 1964 saw some stability in the market and an increase in prices paid. The following details of salvage disposed of during the year show a slight fall on the figures for 1963 which are shown in parentheses. Nevertheless, the Council continue to dispose of this large quantity of material at no expense to themselves.

<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Weights</i>						<i>Revenue</i>					
	<i>t</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>q</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>q</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
Kraft Paper Sacks ...	1	16	3	(	—	)	£17	9	1	(	—	)
Container Waste ...	7	17	1	(10	19	1)	£68	16	0	(£95	8	3)
Mixed Baled Paper...	11	13	1	(15	7	3)	£73	13	4	(£95	7	5)
Baled Newspapers and Magazines	13	10	0	(11	3	3)	£74	4	11	(£61	10	7)
TOTAL							£234	3	4	(£252	6	3)

<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
Materials	£19	10	0	(£19	5	0)
Labour	£199	13	10	(£208	7	1)
	£219	3	10	(£227	12	1)

Food and Food Premises

Two hundred and ninety-three routine visits have been made to food premises. The following matters have been the subject of letters regarding unsatisfactory conditions at sixteen premises :

Reg. 14	Cleanliness of sanitary conveniences and room and affixing of hand-washing notices	7
Reg. 16	Provision of wash-hand basins, nailbrush, soap, etc.	12
Reg. 17	Maintenance of first aid materials	5
Reg. 18	Provision of accommodation for clothing	2
Reg. 23	Cleanliness of food rooms, etc.	9

The following types of food premises are located in this area :

Grocers and General	...	...	...	...	38
Public Houses and Licensed Clubs	...				37
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	21
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	20
Village Halls	...	...	...	...	9
Butchers	...	...	...	...	10
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	7
Sweets and Confectionery	...	...	...		10
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	3
Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	2
Chemists	...	...	...	...	2
Canning Factory	...	...	...	...	1
Dairy	...	...	...	...	2
Total					162

Note—Where a Cafe or Restaurant is attached to a public house or grocers, etc. it is shown under both heads)

Forty-three premises are registered under Section 16(1)(a) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. There are nine other premises registered under Section 16(1)(b) - two fish and chips and seven sausage and meat pies. One food canning factory is in the area.

A garage of a private house was found to be used as a store for canned goods and other groceries sold from a mobile van. Apart from the question of planning approval which is still under consideration, there appears to be no permission required for this use under public health law. A garage was similarly found to be used for meat preparation in connection with the business of a market stall holder. In this instance it appears no offence was necessarily being committed although by informal action the practice was discontinued.

A mobile chip shop vehicle and a mobile fish vehicle were registered under Section 144 of the Cheshire County Council Act. A new fish and chip shop was opened in Holmes Chapel and some trouble has arisen with grease disposal to the sewers. A further registration for the sale of ice cream has been approved from a petrol filling station.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

The Slaughterhouse which normally operates solely for the slaughter of animals for sale at the shop, for a short period of time offered slaughtering facilities to another shop. This has now been discontinued. On the basis of past use the Council have agreed to make in future a fixed charge for meat inspection of £12 per annum. The following are details of the work carried out :

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	62	—	—	273	40	—
Number inspected	62	—	—	273	40	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	4	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	13.0	—	—	1.4	7.5	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Two licences were issued to people residing in the area.

Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus

The County Council carry out routine sampling throughout the area of dairy herds, particularly those from which milk is sold raw to the public. The following figures show the sampling done by the County Council in this respect in this district .

	Total Submitted	Number Brucella Positive
Bulk Samples 	100	13
Dealer Samples 	44	1
Individual Cow Samples	232	30
Total	376	44

Brucellosis was confirmed in six herds

1. Two cows - cows disposed of and the farmer ceased to operate the farm.
2. One cow - undertaking given and the cow was sold by auction.
3. One cow - undertaking given for heat treatment.
4. One cow - notice served under Regulation 20 and which is still in force.
5. Two cows - animals slaughtered.
6. Nine cows - undertaking given for heat treatment.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Factories Act, 1961

The following table gives information as to the number of factories and inspections made :

Particulars	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	11	2	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	6	1	—
TOTAL	55	17	3	—

Inspections fall far below that considered necessary for efficient supervision and it is hoped with additional staff to increase them.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Owing to pressure of other duties, the survey under this Act had to be discontinued and only a further seven farms were visited. One farm provided sanitary accommodation on request. Over three hundred of five hundred farms have now been visited and with additional staff it is hoped to complete the survey.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

All occupiers of premises thought likely to be subject to registration were notified of their responsibility and it is believed that all such premises are now registered. The following table gives the details of the type of premises and indicates the number receiving a general inspection during 1964 :

Class of Premises	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	9	5
Retail shops	26	19
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	1
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	21	12
Fuel storage depots	2	—

Fifty-seven visits were made to registered premises and the following table indicates the number of persons employed in the fifty-nine registered premises :

Offices	47
Retail Shops	89
Wholesale departments, warehouses	10
Catering establishments open to the public	127
Canteens	1
Fuel Storage depots	7
Total	281

Total Males - 135

Total Females - 146

Conditions generally were found satisfactory and of the list below of items to which attention had to be drawn, the greater number are for absence of a thermometer and of first aid facilities :

Section 4 - Cleanliness	10
Section 6 - Temperature (including thermometer) ...	27
Section 7 - Ventilation	6
Section 8 - Lighting and clean windows	2
Section 9 - Sanitary conveniences	10
Section 10 - Washing facilities	6
Section 11 - Drinking Water	1
Section 12 - Accommodation for clothes and drying ...	7
Section 13 - Seating facilities	1
Section 15 - Eating facilities	3
Section 24 - First Aid	31

Public Health Inspections

Summary of Visits

Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963	...	4
Animals, keeping of	... ..	7
Caravans	... ..	29
Conversions	... ..	27
Clean Air Act, 1956	... ..	4
Drainage - including septic tanks, etc.	... ..	133
Dustbins	... ..	8
Factory - with Mechanical Power	... ..	3
Food Premises - General	... ..	73
Butchers	... ..	21
Cafe and Canteens	... ..	37
Dairy, etc.	... ..	17
Fish and Chips	... ..	7
Ice Cream	... ..	2
Hotels and P.H.	... ..	35
Slaughterhouses	... ..	93
Unsound Food	... ..	6
Vehicles	... ..	2
Farms, Sanitary Conveniences for outworkers	...	12
Housing - General	... ..	223
Overcrowding	... ..	—
Council House applications	... ..	23
Housing Act, 1949 - Grants	... ..	420
Infectious Disease	... ..	6
Infectious Disease - Food Poisoning	... ..	3
Insect Pests	... ..	14
Insect Pests - Disinfestation	... ..	3
Miscellaneous - Interviews, etc.	... ..	74
Nuisance - General and Housing	... ..	76
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963:		
General	... ..	53
Other	... ..	4
Petroleum	... ..	35
Rodent Control	... ..	33
Scavenging - General	... ..	62
Tips	... ..	80
Teams at Work	... ..	12
Garages	... ..	196
Water Supply	... ..	23
	Total	1860

Number of Complaints received	108
Number of Informal Notices served	48
Number of Informal Notices complied with	63
Number of Statutory Notices served	5
Number of Statutory Notices complied with by owner ...	6

Conversions

One outstanding grant under Section 47 in the Brereton Parish was settled.

Four closets were converted in Church Lawton Parish following the provision of a sewer. Grants were paid in accordance with Section 47 by agreement without service of statutory notice.

Two closets were converted in the Rode Heath Parish with permission given to connect to an existing temporary tank.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Sixteen licences were in force at the beginning of the year covering one hundred and forty caravans. Five new licences were issued in respect of six caravans during the year.

In the case of new caravans, application for site licence is not considered until planning approval has been given or refused. This means, in effect, caravans are often stationed on unlicensed sites for a considerable period before being subject to licence conditions.

Clean Air Act, 1956

No complaints have been received during the year from nuisance from smoke. No smoke control areas have been established in the area and no prior approvals to new installations have been issued during the year.

Rodent Control

Contracts totalling £507 were fulfilled at ninety-three farms and industrial premises. Private premises are treated free. The following details are given of the work carried out :

	<i>Number Treated</i>
Private Houses	50
Refuse Tips and Sewage Works	18
Industrial and Trade Premises	21
Farms	71

Sewers were again found to be negative on test baiting.

The Operator appointed at the beginning of 1964 was found to have knowledge of insect pest control and this branch of disinfection is now undertaken by him under supervision. One contract for insect control has also been undertaken.

The Operator received instruction from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the trapping of moles. Mole trapping is undertaken at private dwelling houses on payment and is carried out at local authority properties. Agricultural infestations are not treated by the Council.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

Fifty-seven premises are now licensed for the storage of petrol and are required to conform to the Home Office Code as to the Conditions of Licence and Principles of Construction. Three new premises have been licensed during the year.

Nuisances

Many complaints were received during the year of nuisance arising from a large intensive poultry unit, particularly from smell. A liquid lagoon below a poultry house was emptied after having received droppings for a year. The dry deep litter did not present the same problem. The battery house units discharged manure to a cesspit and on advice this was emptied at more frequent intervals, i.e. on alternate days. Removal was by a closed pump and sealed piping with distribution over adjoining fields. Considerable improvement was noted.

Staff

The Council have agreed to the appointment of an Additional Public Health Inspector in 1965 and also to the appointment of a Student Inspector.

Housing

At the beginning of 1964 forty-eight houses were known to be unfit and occupied. During the year eighteen families were displaced and at the end of the year thirty-two houses remained occupied and unfit. Of these, Demolition Orders are operative on four, and Undertakings in force in respect of nine. Fourteen families are awaiting rehousing.

The following action has been taken during the year :

Houses made fit and Closing Orders determined or Undertakings cancelled	9
Demolished by owner	1
Demolished by local authority in default	2
Closing Orders made	8
Undertakings accepted	5
Demolition Orders made	2

The number of unfit houses is remaining fairly static as additional houses are found to fall within the category. The rehousing of families from unfit houses receives a high degree of priority. No less than eleven of the occupied unfit houses remaining are tenanted by elderly people who wish not to be disturbed.

There are sixty properties in the district which were vacant at the end of 1964 and which are the subject of Closing Orders or Undertakings not to relet.

Improvement Grants

The Council continue to pursue an active policy of encouragement to the improvement grant scheme and have arranged for the publicity film "The Bronze Horses" to be shown throughout the district. The benefit accruing to both owners and occupiers participating in the scheme is considerable and the revised conditions of observance offer even further attraction to an application. The following tables indicate the work carried out under both grant schemes :

Discretionary Grants

Applications received in 1964	...	...	...	...	24
Applications approved - owner/occupiers	...	...	...	...	10
others	...	...	...	...	14
Total value of grants approved	...	...	...	...	£7303
Total approved since inception of the Scheme	...	...	...	...	£73870
Properties affected :					
Owner/occupiers	...	...	...	...	169
Others	...	...	...	...	115
					284

Standard Grants

Applications received in 1964	17
Applications approved - owner/occupiers ...	10
others	7
Number of houses having grant paid	13
Total value of grants paid £801/5/4	
Total amount of grants paid since inception of the Scheme £5162/4/3	
Properties affected 	58

Certificates of Disrepair

No applications for Certificates were received. Seven Certificates still remain operative.

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